



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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### **ADDENDUM TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

#### **13-017: WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Tucannon River and Floodplain Restoration Projects**

**DATED: February 27, 2013**

**Name of DNS:** 14-004: Additional Work on WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Tucannon River and Floodplain Restoration Projects

#### **Description of DNS:**

This proposal is for river and floodplain restoration projects done from 2013-2018 on the W.T. Wooten W.A., using funding from the BPA contract (2010-077) Tucannon Habitat Programmatic administered through the Snake Region Salmon Recovery Board. The Wooten Wildlife Area encompasses 17 miles of Tucannon River headwaters that are considered critical spawning and rearing habitat for Lower Snake River Spring Chinook. The projects have been developed using a 2011 geomorphic assessment done by Anchor, QEA. The restoration actions in the Tucannon Basin are based on a framework proposed by Roni, et al (2002). 1. Protect and maintain natural processes – Promote natural hydrologic and sediment routing throughout the system, allow natural channel migration and wood recruitment, 2. Connect disconnected habitats- Reconnect oxbows, wetlands, and former main stem and side channels (floodplain), 3. Address roads, levees, and other human infrastructure impairing processes – Remove or modify culverts, levees, dredge spoils, diversion dams, and grade control structures, 4. Restore riparian processes – Isolate and protect healthy riparian areas, eradicate invasive species, and plant native communities, 5. Improve instream habitat conditions – Install large individual trees and Large Woody Debris structures in the main channel. This proposal is intended to cover Large Wood and Floodplain restoration projects identified using this framework. Anchor developed a set of conceptual (10%) designs for the Tucannon River, Reaches 8-10 and Project Areas 1-15 and 18 are located on the Wooten W.A. These conceptual designs were prioritized by Anchor and approved by the Tucannon Conservation Committee and SRSRB Regional Technical Team, into (3) tiered levels. The geomorphic assessment results identified Large Wood (LW) replenishment and restoring floodplain connection as two of the main objectives for Spring Chinook Habitat restoration. Restoring floodplain includes restoring large wood to the stream channel, to a grade the channel and reconnects the river and its floodplain, removing dredge spoils and dikes to increase the floodplain area available to the river, and in some cases moving dikes back that provide protection for existing infrastructure. Large Wood (LW) replenishment/restoration includes using helicopters to place trees into the river, building constructed log jams, dropping dead trees into the river when opportunity presents itself, and using chainsaw winches or other devices to pull LW from the floodplain into the channel. The Tucannon River is disconnected from the floodplain and has very little habitat complexity. The short term goals for LW restoration is to restore habitat complexity in the form of more frequent pools, reconnect secondary channels, and provide more cover for salmonids and other native fish. The general project objectives are to increase in-stream habitat complexity, maximize linkages between the

river and the floodplain, increase the number and length of ephemeral and perennial channels, and improve riparian health and function.

In 201~~43~~, there are ~~two~~ **four** projects scheduled for implementation Project Area 14 (PA14) and Project Area 3 (PA3), **PA 1, and PA 15**. PA 14 is sponsored by WDFW WST Biologist, Dave Karl, and it is a LW replenishment project from river mile (RM) 39.2 (downstream from the hatchery bridge) to RM 37.5 (Spring Lake). The project was designed by Tracy Drury, P.E. Anchor QEA and involves construction of 8 basic types of Engineered Log Jams (ELJ's) through the roughly 1.5 mile reach (design drawing/report attached). PA 3 is sponsored by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Tucannon Habitat Biologist, Eric Hoverson, and the project involves helicopter placement of full trees with root-balls from RM 48.6 (Little Tucannon confluence) to RM46.8 (Donnie Lake). The project was designed by Eric Hoverson and Gerald Middel (CTUIR) and reviewed by Bruce Heiner, WDFW Engineer. Helicopter placement is a low impact method for LW replenishment; however, some reaches require engineering to manage impacts to infrastructure and/or private property. In 2014 additional Habitat Restoration projects will be implemented on the Wooten Wildlife Area. Project Area 1 (PA 1) has been added to PA 3. PA 1 is a series of constructed ELJ's from the Panjab Bridge approximately 0.6 miles downstream. Both of these projects have been designed by CTUIR staff and Tetra Tech Engineers. The projects include helicopter placement of large wood structures and constructed ELJ's. Project Area 15 will be implemented by the Columbia County Conservation District. PA 15 was designed by Anchor QEA and is very similar to PA 14 in design and involves construction of 7 basic Engineered Log Jams. The project is located downstream from the headquarters boundary RM 37 approximately 0.7 miles downstream.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Dave Karl  
1340 N. 13th Ave Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 527-4138

**Location of DNS, including street, if any:** Tucannon River System, WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area, Approximately 12 miles southwest from Pomeroy and 12 miles East of Dayton, Washington, Columbia County; Sections 21, 22, 27, 16 of Township 10 North, Range 41 East WM Sections 29, 30, 32 of Township 9 North, Range 41 East WM. Section 5 of Township 8 North, Range 41 East

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

**WDFW is providing updated information on this project that may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The updated information provided below does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.**

The original environmental checklist dated **February 27, 2013**, should be modified to reflect the following change:

**Additional Habitat Restoration projects will be implemented in two areas on the Wooten Wildlife Area. The additional work will include a series of constructed engineered log jams from the Panjab Bridge approximately 0.6 miles downstream and helicopter placement of large wood structures.**

**Based on the original environmental checklist and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA environmental checklist addendum.**

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Protection Division

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

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**DATE OF ISSUE:** January 15, 2014

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

SEPA Log Number: 14 -004ADDdns